

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INT-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04

OES-06 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 /060 W

----- 111840

R 081348Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOAHNNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, EMIN, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: US BUSINESS INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE
EXPORT SITUATION

REF: STATE 83704

1. FOR DEPT BACKGROUND ONLY - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION TO BE
PROTECTED: FETTER OF PPG INDUSTRIES DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFFS
APRIL 6 PROBLEM OF CHROME ORE SHIPMENTS THROUGH MAPUTO. HE
CONFIRMED PRESENT SHIPMENTS MOVING SMOOTHLY BUT HE WAS CON-
CERNED ABOUT PROSPECTS ABOUT JUNE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE LOSS
OF PORTUGUESE PILOTS. HE IS STILL IN COUNTRY DEVELOPING
ALTERNATE SHIPPING ROUTES FOR HIS COMPANY, WHICH HOWEVER ARE
OF A LONG-RANGE NATURE. HAS APPOINTMENT AT CONGEN DURBAN
APRIL 10. PPG, WHICH ALSO DEPENDS ON TRANSVAAL CHROME ORE
FOR ITS CHEMICAL OPERATIONS, HAS BUILT UP TWO-YEAR INVENTORY
TO GUARD AGAINST INTERRUPTION AND IS CONCERNED MORE ABOUT
INVENTORY CARRYING COSTS THAN SUPPLY INTERRUPTIONS.

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WM CONTINUATION OF TRANSVAAL CHROME EXPORTS, IF MAPUTO IS UNABLE TO HANDLE, WILL HAVE TO BE THROUGH ONE OF SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS, PROBABLY DURBAN. DURBAN'S 88 INDICATES THIS MAY BE FEASIBLE BUT ADVANCE PLANNING ON PART OF SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY AND HARBORS ADMINISTRATION (SARH) APPEARS NEEDED, THE MORE SO BECAUSE THE RHODESIANS ARE DOUBTLESS ALSO SEEKING TO MOVE THEIR CHROME THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

3. MINERALS OFFICER SWEETWOOD IS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS AT SARH HEAD OFFICE IN JOHANNESBURG TO LEARN ABOUT PLANNING FOR CHROME SHIPMENTS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS AND WHAT PLANS IT HAS, IF ANY, FOR TECHNICAL HELP AT MAPUTO SHOULD PORTUGUESE PILOTS AND OTHERS LEAVE.
BOWDLER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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